

Dalton Trail Post (Pleasant Camp)
Mile 40 of the Haines Highway
Haines Vicinity
Haines Division
Alaska

HABS No. AK-4

HABS
AK,
7-HAIN.V,
1 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HABS
AK,
7-HAIN.V,
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DALTON TRAIL POST (Pleasant Camp)

HABS No. AK-4

Location: Mile 40 of the Haines Highway
Haines Vicinity
Haines Division
Alaska

USGS Skagway (B-4) Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 8.422850.6590820

Present Owner: Jane A. Johnson and Elroy K. Minnis
c/o Muneau Motor Company, Juneau, Alaska

Present Use: Vacant. Site of proposed United States Border Station

Significance: Dalton Trail Post is associated with the Canadian Northwest Mounted Police and their role in maintaining order in the Klondike Gold Rush, and in the establishment of the United States-Canadian border.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: The Dalton Trail Post was constructed in 1890. The original complex included the Officers' Quarters, Sergeant-Major and Sergeants' Quarters, Men's Quarters, storehouse, barn, and dugout. Numerous other buildings were constructed over the years including; fox pens, root cellars, outhouses, and a trapper's cabin. Three structures can be dated to 1926-1930; they are: the garage and blacksmith shop with the connecting animal pens.
2. Architect: The buildings were constructed by Inspector A.M. Jarvis and a detachment of eighteen men from the Canadian Northwest Mounted Police.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The complex was first owned by the Canadian Government and served as a Canadian customs station. The complex has been used for a variety of purposes; and has alternately been in Canadian and United States territory (it now is divided). The station has served as Canadian and United States Customs, a roadhouse, a mining headquarters and a fox farm (Dalton Cache, originally separate, was incorporated into the complex at an unknown date).
4. Original plans and construction: In 1899 Inspector Jarvis published a brief description of the post (Jarvis, A.M. "Annual Report of Inspector A.M. Jarvis" Annual Report of the North-West Mounted Police, 1898, PART III Yukon Territory, King's Printer, 1899, pages 95-110).

It goes:

"OFFICERS QUARTERS. Dimensions, 28 by 35, kitchen and dining room 16 x 20, with cellar underneath, plastered in and outside, floored with whip-sawed lumber, hand-made shingles, five and a half inches to the weather.

SERGEANT-MAJOR AND SERGEANT'S QUARTERS. 20 x 24, floored with whip-sawed lumber. Shingled roof, plastered outside and partly inside.

MEN'S QUARTERS. 35 by 28, a two-story building, with good large cellar underneath, well floored with lumber, shingled roof, plastered outside and partly inside.

STORE HOUSE. Dimensions, 12 x 15, covered with tarpaulin. This building I intended moving over in rear of men's quarters, building a passage from the men's quarters, and converting it into a bath and washroom, as the upper story of the men's quarters is now being used as a store-room.

I had drawn out sufficient logs to build a fair sized stable, but on account of your orders re the withdrawal of the major part of the detachment for other duties, building operations ceased."

5. Alterations and additions: The buildings have deteriorated due to weather and neglect. Minor alterations have probably occurred to the structures.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

On April 3, 1898 Inspector A.M. Jarvis and a detachment of eighteen Mounted Police left Calgary, Canada and traveled via rail and steamer to Haines, Alaska, arriving April 14. From Haines they traveled northwest by horse and canoe, arriving at their destination May 4. This was during the Klondike Gold Rush of the 1890s, and reflects the Canadians' attempt to control the surge of people into the area, and to establish a United States-Canada border custom station at Dalton Cache.

During Jarvis' tenure (April-October 1898) \$11,738.50 was collected in custom fees, several criminals were successfully pursued, the remnants of the United States Reindeer Relief Expedition passed through, and approximately 2,000 head of cattle and horses were noted enroute to the Klondike. With Jarvis' departure in October for another assignment, Sergeant-Major Barker was left in command of the Post.

Local folk tradition reports a clash between the Mounties and the Chelkat Indians. This climaxed in a confrontation near the village of Klukwan but ended peacefully. The Mounties remained at Dalton Trail Post until the 1920s.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views:

Several photographs exist in the photographic collection of the Sheldon Museum in Haines, Alaska. A selection of these were photocopied for the photo data set.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Adams, William H., and Shaw, Robert D. Archeological Survey of the Proposed U.S. Border Station at Pleasant Camp, Alaska. Pullman, Washington: Arctic Research Station, Laboratory of Anthropology, Washington State University, 1976.

Washington, D.C. National Register of Historic Places.
Pleasant Camp (by William Hanable, 1972).

b. Secondary and published sources:

Brooks, Alfred H. "A Reconnaissance from Pyramid Harbor to Eagle City, Alaska..." Twenty-First Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey Part II, Washington: 1910.

Goldschmidt, Walter R., and Haas, Theodore H. "Possessory Rights of the Natives of Southeastern Alaska." Report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Washington, D.C. Mimeographed.

Hall, George A. "Summary of Historical Development of Haines Area in Alaska," Alaska Division of Parks, 1971 m.p.

Jarvis, A.M., "Annual Report of Inspector A.M. Jarvis" in Annual Report of the North-West Mounted Police, 1898, Part III, Yukon Territory, King's Printer, 1899, 95-110.

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May 1976

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Historic American
Buildings Survey
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The structures are of simple log construction.
2. Condition of fabric: The buildings are in a deteriorated condition with many no longer standing.

B. Description of Major Structures:

1. Officers' Kitchen, Dining Hall and Quarters (Buildings J-K): The Officers' Kitchen and Quarters are no longer standing. Observations were made from a study of the site and historic photographs. The one story structure measures approximately 51' x 35', and was of log construction with plastered chinking and shingling on the loft area and roof sides. It was rectangular in shape with the kitchen and dining area in a side wing. The gable roof exposed the rafters at the eaves. An L-shaped covered porch was on the west and south sides, supported by braced poles.
2. Sergeant-Major and Sergeants' Quarters (Building N): This structure is still standing, although in a deteriorated condition (the roof is missing). The rectangular, one story building measures 19'-8" (one-bay front) x 23'-9", and is of log construction (sawed ends and indented V-notch logs, not hewn), with chinking and plastering over quartered posts and a gable roof. The nature of the windows and doors has not been determined, but the windows were held between lath. The door was located at the southern part of the east wall. There were windows at the center of the north and south elevations.
3. Men's Quarters (Building Q): Nothing remains of this structure. Historic photographs indicate a two story, three bay front, rectangular building of logs with plastered chinking. It had a gable roof, with the main entrance on the east elevation. The door was flanked by windows on either side, with two more windows at the second story. A single window appeared on the north elevation.

C. Site:

1. General setting: The complex spreads over the United States-Canadian Border and lies south of the Haines Highway and north of the Klehine River. There is a map of the site in the field records.
2. Outbuildings: There are several outbuildings in the complex. The ones which are best preserved are from the later phases of the complex.

- a. Barn (Building P): Part of the barn walls are still standing. The structure measures 18' x 27'-8" and was constructed of partially hewn logs (ends sawed, corners indented V-notch) with irregular wood pegging and plastered chinking. The second story floor was supported by eleven evenly spaced 5" x 6" joists on 37" centers half notched to the west and east wall. The gable roof had 4" diameter rafters, with full cut 1" x 10" shingles nailed on lath. There was a door on the center of the south elevation, and a loft door on the east elevation. Historic photographs reveal a purlin midway up the roof, an overhang over the loft door, a wide door on the south side, and a lean-to shed on the west elevation.
- b. Outhouse (Building O): There are two pits indicating former outhouses, and the one structure remaining measures 9'-1" x 3'-8" and is of board and batten construction. The gable roof has handmade shingles on six laths with quartered pole wall plates. The rafters are four round poles with a 1" x 4" ridge board and tie beams. The door is composed of three vertical boards. Inside there are two holes, a bench, and a board floor.
- c. Trapper's Cabin (Building M): This structure measures 7'-2" x 9' and was constructed of logs and boards taken from nearby buildings. It has a gable roof of 9" x 1-1/8" and 10" x 1" boards.
- d. Garage (Building A): The garage dates from 1926-1930. The road reached this point in 1926. This structure measures 15' x 17'-3" and is of log construction. The logs have their ends sawed and corners saddle notched with an ax. There is a gable roof formed of fourteen horizontal roof beams running parallel to the ridge. The front entrance is missing but is framed by full cut 1" x 8" and 2" x 12" boards; the rear door is made from three boards with framing. There is a window on the south elevation. The interior is one large space with log floor joists and flooring of full cut boards measuring 1" x 6" and 1" x 12".
- e. Animal Pen (Building B): The animal pen measures 21' x 10' and is constructed of horizontal boards nailed to upright poles. The structure is connected to the garage and to the blacksmith shop. The interior is divided into three compartments by pole and board construction.
- f. Blacksmith Shop (Building C): The blacksmith shop, which dates from 1926-1930, is in fair condition. It is a single story, rectangular structure measuring 23'-10" x 14'-4". It is of log construction with the ends sawed and the corners saddle notched with an ax. There is a gable roof which projects 4' beyond the west wall. The horizontal roof

beams are supported by the gable walls on the east and west ends with tie beams strengthening the walls. The roof boards are vertical and the ridge is covered by sheet metal. There was a door off center at the west elevation and a window on the south elevation.

- g. Steam Engine: A steam engine is located near the garage and blacksmith complex. It was used in logging operations.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Arctic Research Section, Laboratory of Anthropology, Washington State University for the General Services Administration in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as a mitigative effort in the proposed construction of a new U.S. Border Station. John A. Burns, AIA, and Emily Harris, historian, were the HABS project coordinators. Photographs were taken by Victoria L. Taylor, General Services Administration. The records were edited by HABS historian Mary Beth Betts and Patricia L. Rowse and were prepared for transmittal by John A. Burns, AIA.